Disposition of the Claims

Claims 1-49 are pending in this application. 1-37 and 44-49 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 38-43 are rejected. Claim 39 is objected to.

Claims 38-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Samiotes (6,125,844) in view of Jones, Jr. et al. (5,724,986).

Claims 42 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Samiotes and Jones, Jr. et al. and in further view of Seppala (6,948,495).

Claims 38-43 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 38-43 of copending Application No. 10/845,411.

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1-49. (Cancelled)

50. (New) A method of inducing a drug from an inhaler into a spacer, the inhaler including a propellant gas at a predetermined pressure and a drug source disposed in a drug storage section, the method comprising the steps of:

injecting a first volume of the propellant gas from the inhaler directly into the spacer;

injecting a second volume of propellant gas into the storage section to aerosolize the drug, thereby producing a drug cloud; and

directing the drug cloud into the spacer.

51. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein the propellant gas is heliox or helium;

52. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein the propellant gas is heliox having a percentage of helium equal to or greater than eighty percent (80%).

53. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein the step of directing the drug cloud into the spacer further comprises inducing a laminar flow of the drug cloud in the spacer.

54. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein the pressure of the propellant gas is between about 200 psig and 50 psig.

55. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein the steps of injecting a first volume of the propellant gas and injecting a second volume of propellant gas are performed successively.